

THE BLACKET ASSOCIATION

(the "Association")

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

(the "Committee")

Held on 18th January 2022 at 8:10pm via Zoom

Present: Ian Chisholm – Chairman and Newsletter Editor ("IC")
Stanley Bird - Neighbourhood Watch ("SB")
Mhoraig Blair – Website Co-ordinator ("MB")
Richard Scothorne – Planning ("RS")
Susan Hezlet - Communications ("SH")
Arlene Doherty – New Residents ("AD")
Ann Henderson - Treasurer ('AH')
Anne Staresmeare– new member ("AS")
Hazel Clark – Minutes and Social Convener ("HC")

1. MINUTES:

The Chairman began by welcoming Anne as a new member of the Committee. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2021 were approved.

2. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The list of open actions was discussed. The table of actions at the end of these minutes has been updated accordingly.

The Committee discussed the ongoing issue with the parking outside the nursery on Blacket Avenue and it was agreed that the best solution was to make it one way, with entry from Minto Street. HC reported that she had contacted local Liberal Democrat council nominee Pauline Flannery about the situation and she had forwarded her email to the relevant contact in the Council's transport department.

Action Jan22.01 - HC to forward her email exchange with the Council re entry into Blacket Avenue to the rest of the Committee.

AS suggested that if Blacket Avenue does become one-way that there would also need to be a SLOW sign installed, otherwise people would drive too fast.

IC advised that he had still not had a response to his complaint about the parents' parking issue and would therefore chase the nursery owners up.

Action Jan22.02- IC to chase up the nursery for a response to his complaint about nursery parents parking on Blacket Avenue.

MB advised that ownership of the database had now transferred to the Association, meaning that that action could now be closed.

However, there was an issue with updating the website at the moment as the Apple software [Comodo Edit] was no longer compatible with the website which meaning coding can't currently be edited. MB advised that she would check for future updates. The database was unaffected. The only item which was still to be added to the website was Hugh's piece.

Action Jan22.03 - MB to check for future updates to Comodo Edit

3. PLANNING

RS advised that there was no further update on the Thrums Hotel decision. The owners had lost their appeal against the decision about listed building consent. As a result, the owners may not go ahead with their plans.

AD commented that the Committee should be very grateful to RS for all his hard work on the project and the Committee agreed and gave him their thanks.

4. GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (the "GPCC")

IC advised that there was a meeting the next day and that there were a number of large ongoing issues at the moment. Cameron Toll, although not within the GCC area, was of interest. Planning permission had been given for a cinema and hotel which would reduce the number of parking spaces available. Thankfully there would be no impact on Inch Park. Planners were apparently also looking at whether Cameron Toll would be a useful suburban railway station, which the Committee noted would be very good for the neighbourhood. The GCC was also dealing with big issues like climate change. IC advised that all the Committee members should have a look on the Council's website to see Edinburgh's grandiose plans.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SB advised that some of the recent updates were too esoteric for The Blackets. If they weren't he would send them on to SH for circulation. There had been a theft of a japonica bush from a Council owned area beside 8 Dryden Place, which had been planted in memory of Jeffrey [Surname] over Christmas and new year. It was agreed that the Committee should arrange for another shrub to be purchased and planted in the same spot.

Action Jan22.04 - Japonica shrub to be bought and replanted beside 8 Dryden Place.

6. SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY

Leaf collection mornings continued to be very successful and Hugh would be in touch in the Spring to gather a working group to plant bulbs.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

AH reported that no money had been spent but a few new subscriptions had been received and some Blacket Christmas cards had been purchased.

8. NEW RESIDENTS

AD reported that a new family had moved into 24 Mayfield Terrace - Paddy, Ayako and Taka. Paddy had asked whether there was a babysitting circle within the Blacket area.

Zoe Campbell, Marian's daughter was now qualified to look after children if any residents were looking for a babysitter. MB advised that her nanny would happily babysit.

Action Jan22.05 - SH to put MB and Paddy in touch re possibility of using MB's babysitter.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Discussions then turned to the commitments made at the AGM, particularly the idea of holding a street party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. IC suggested the invites just go out to the Blacket Association, and not the wider Blacket area. The Committee agreed that would be simpler.

IC advised that we would have to ask the Council for permission to close the road at the end of Alfred Place.

AD suggested that a few of the residents of the care home on Dryden Place be invited, as they had been to the Diamond Jubilee street party. The Committee agreed.

It was agreed that IC would lead the organising, with help from HC as social conveyor and SH. IC, HC and SH agreed to meet up on their own to make plans for the street party.

Another matter which was discussed at the AGM was the possibility of attending a husting for residents to quiz local councillors about issues like pot holes and EV charging points on the street. SH suggested that West Blackets be included. IC advised that he would look into this.

Action Jan22.06 - IC to find out whether local councillors are planning to hold local hustings.

IC advised that the Committee should consider whether to hold an Open Gardens evening in August.

Action Jan22.07 - Committee to consider whether to hold Open Gardens evening in August.

In relation to communications from the Association to residents, SH advised that this was going well. There were very few emails received, the latest being the one from Paddy about babysitting.

Action Jan22.08 - HC to send AGM minutes to Committee members.

AS then explained that in the light of COP26, she felt it was important for the Association to create a sustainability group. She explained that she felt it was up to the Association to keep awareness of climate change issues going and this could be achieved by asking volunteers to do research, make plans and implement them. We could highlight which local businesses were acting sustainably e.g. The Refillery on Minto Street and create a newsletter full of useful hints and tips as to how residents could live more sustainability e.g. by limiting their use of microplastics. AS advised that she had written to local councillors asking about their plans for investing in sustainable projects in order to raise awareness.

It was agreed that SH should send a message to residents to see who was interested in finding out more and then point them in the direction of AS.

Action Jan22.09 – SH to send a message to residents asking who would like to find out more about how to live sustainably.

SB pointed out that AS could have access to the City Council through him and IC. Discussions moved to ideas about holding a litter picking morning along the same lines as the shrubbery working party. SH suggested that AS form a sustainability interest group which was informally linked to the Association which could then feed into it.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Committee should hold its next meeting on Tuesday 5th April 2022 at HC's house.

SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS:

REF	ACTION	RESP	STATUS
Jan17.04	<i>Committee members to email AD with details of new residents for follow up.</i>	All	Ongoing and working well. New residents at 24 Mayfield Terrace
Jan19.05	<i>Blacket Awards proposal concept to be developed further.</i>	RS	Ongoing. RS promised to make progress on this once his work hours reduced.
Sep19.05	<i>Review the website and provide MB with updated content.</i>	All	Ongoing.
Mar20.05	<i>Illegal one-way entry to Mayfield Terrace – raise with GPCC</i>	IC & SB	Council have been informed that we want a proper NO ENTRY sign. Ongoing.
Feb21.01	<i>IC to raise with GPCC matter of illegal one-way entry to Dalkeith Rd from Blacket Place</i>	IC	Ongoing.
Feb 21.03	<i>IC to request grit box at next GPCC meeting</i>	IC	IC will keep pressing for. Ongoing as no action yet.
Feb 21.04	<i>MB to organise transfer of ownership of database into the name of the Association</i>	MB	Closed
<u>Feb21.07</u>	<i>MB to arrange a quote from an IT company to build large documents into the website</i>	MB	Not necessary at present. MB has made a lot of progress.
May21.01	<i>Committee members to look at the website and give MB their feedback</i>	All	Ongoing
Sept21.01	<i>HC to work with SH to issue an email to residents about the AGM with voting buttons on it.</i>	HC, SH	Closed.
Jan22.01	<i>HC to forward her email exchange with the Council re entry into Blacket Avenue to the rest of the Committee.</i>	HC	
Jan22.02	<i>IC to chase up the nursery for a response to his complaint about nursery parents parking on Blacket Avenue.</i>	IC	
Jan22.03	<i>MB to check for future updates to Comodo Edit</i>	MB	
Jan22.04	<i>Japonica shrub to be bought and replanted beside 8 Dryden Place.</i>	All	
Jan22.05	<i>SH to put MB and Paddy in touch re possibility of using MB's babysitter.</i>	SH	
Jan22.06	<i>IC to find out whether local councillors are planning to hold local hustings.</i>	IC	

REF	ACTION	RESP	STATUS
<i>Jan22.07</i>	<i>Committee to consider whether to hold Open Gardens evening in August.</i>	<i>All</i>	
<i>Jan22.08</i>	<i>HC to send AGM minutes to Committee members.</i>	<i>HC</i>	
<i>Jan22.09</i>	<i>SH to send a message to residents asking who would like to find out more about how to live sustainably.</i>	<i>SH</i>	